

SECRET INVASION™

THE NEW AVENGERS®



MARVEL
40 .com

**BENDIS
CHEUNG
DELL**

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE NEW AVENGERS

The new Avengers know that the shape-shifting aliens known as the Skrulls have invaded the Earth. And, since they cannot tell who is really a Skrull, they cannot trust that anyone is who they seem to be. This has sent the Avengers into a tailspin of mistrust.

The Illuminati is a secret organization comprised of several of the world's most powerful heroes: Sorcerer Supreme Doctor Strange; Black Bolt, King of the Inhumans; Charles Xavier, founder of the X-Men; Reed Richards, founding member of the Fantastic Four; Namor, the Sub-Mariner, ruler of Atlantis; and Iron Man, founding member of the Avengers. These six men have worked together to shape the superhuman world. To keep the trust between the group members, the Illuminati's existence has been kept secret from everyone, including the members' teammates and families.

Years ago, after the Kree-Skrull War, the group traveled to the Skrull homeworld to let the Skrulls know that Earth would not tolerate any more attempts at Skrull invasion.

Things did not go well...

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
WRITER

JIM CHEUNG
PENCILER

JOHN DELL
INKER

JUSTIN PONSOR
COLORIST

RS & COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE
LETTERER

ALEKSI BRICLOT
COVER ARTIST

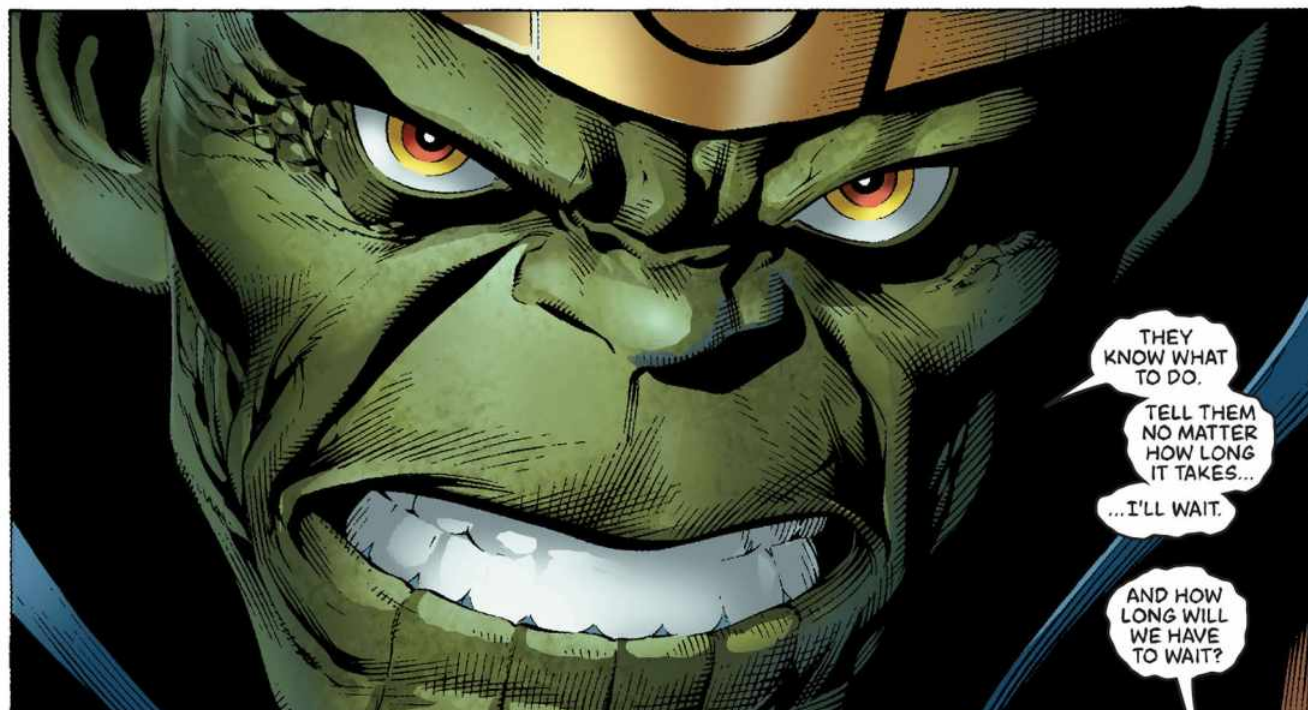
ROBERT GERONIMO & PAUL ACERIOS
PRODUCTION

MOLLY LAZER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER





PRINCESS VERANKE,
TYERANX SEVEN
PROVINCE ■

YOU
IGNORE THE
WORDS OF THE
PROPHETS!

YOU IGNORE
THE WRITINGS AND
YOU SIT THERE AND
LET OUR EMPIRE FALL
APART AROUND
YOU!

AND YOU DO
NOTHING!

YOU DO
NOTHING!

YOU KNOW I SPEAK
FOR A GREAT MANY
OF US!!

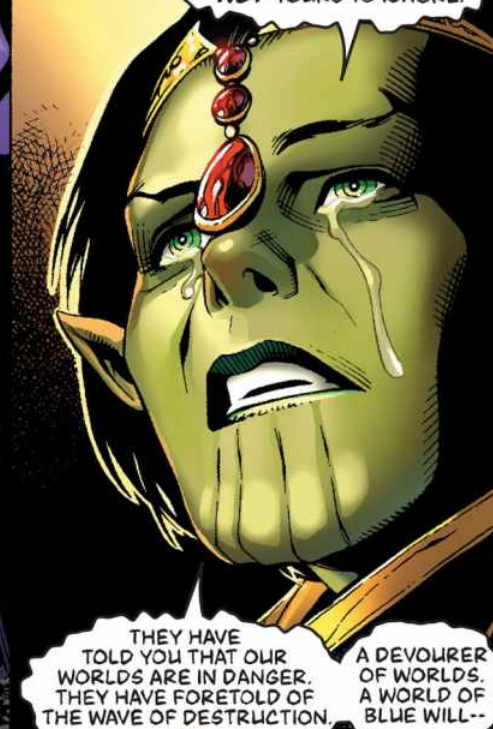
YOU KNOW YOU'RE
IGNORING THE WILL OF
YOUR PEOPLE!!

AND IF THAT BE,
THEN YOU ARE NO
LONGER FIT TO SIT
UPON THAT
THRONE!!



THIS IS NOT AN
APPROPRIATE--

IT IS EXTREMELY
APPROPRIATE! THE PROPHETS' WORDS
ARE YOURS TO LISTEN TO--TO
LET GUIDE YOU--BUT THEY ARE
NOT YOURS TO IGNORE.



THEY HAVE
TOLD YOU THAT OUR
WORLDS ARE IN DANGER.
THEY HAVE FORETOLD OF
THE WAVE OF DESTRUCTION.

A DEVOURER
OF WORLDS.
A WORLD OF
BLUE WILL--



STOP IT!
STOP!

IT'S
MADNESS. IT'S
CHILDREN'S
STORIES!

YOU'RE A MADWOMAN
AND THOSE THAT LISTEN
TO YOU ARE DOUBLY
INSANE!



REMOVE
HER.





YOUR MAJESTY...
SHOULD YOU NOT
TAKE YOUR LEAVE TO
SAFEHOLD?

I DO NOT
LEAVE MY THRONE
TO COWER.

YOUR MAJESTY,
YOU CANNOT HOLD
HER. SHE IS BLOOD
BORN.



SHE'S
DANGEROUS.

IF YOU
KILL HER, YOU
WILL MARTYR
HER.

IF YOU
IMPRISON
HER--

I KNOW.

IF YOU
IMPRISON
HER--

BE
STILL.



THE
SCIENCE
VERSUS THE
SPIRITS.

IT
WOULD
SEEM.

SO YOU'VE
BECOME AN
IMPORTANT ONE,
HEAD PRIEST
OF THE
SCIENCES.

WHAT
CAN HE
DO?

EXPLAIN
IT.

DRO'GE, ROYAL PRIEST
OF THE SCIENCES ■



THE HUMANS THAT WERE
HERE. REED RICHARDS,
THE INHUMAN, THE MUTANT...
WE HAD THEM
PRISONER.

WE WERE ABLE TO
TAKE A GENEROUS
AMOUNT OF SAMPLES
AND SPECIMENS
FROM THEM.

WE
HAVE SAMPLES
OF THEIR ALIEN
BIOLOGICAL CODES.
THAT WHICH MAKES
THEM WHAT
THEY ARE.



AND WHAT
WERE YOU TO DO
WITH THIS?

WOR'IL, WAR COUNCIL
DELEGATE ■

EXPERIMENTS.
CLONING. DISSECTION.
REVERSE BIOLOGICAL
ENGINEERING.

IT
WILL TAKE
TIME.



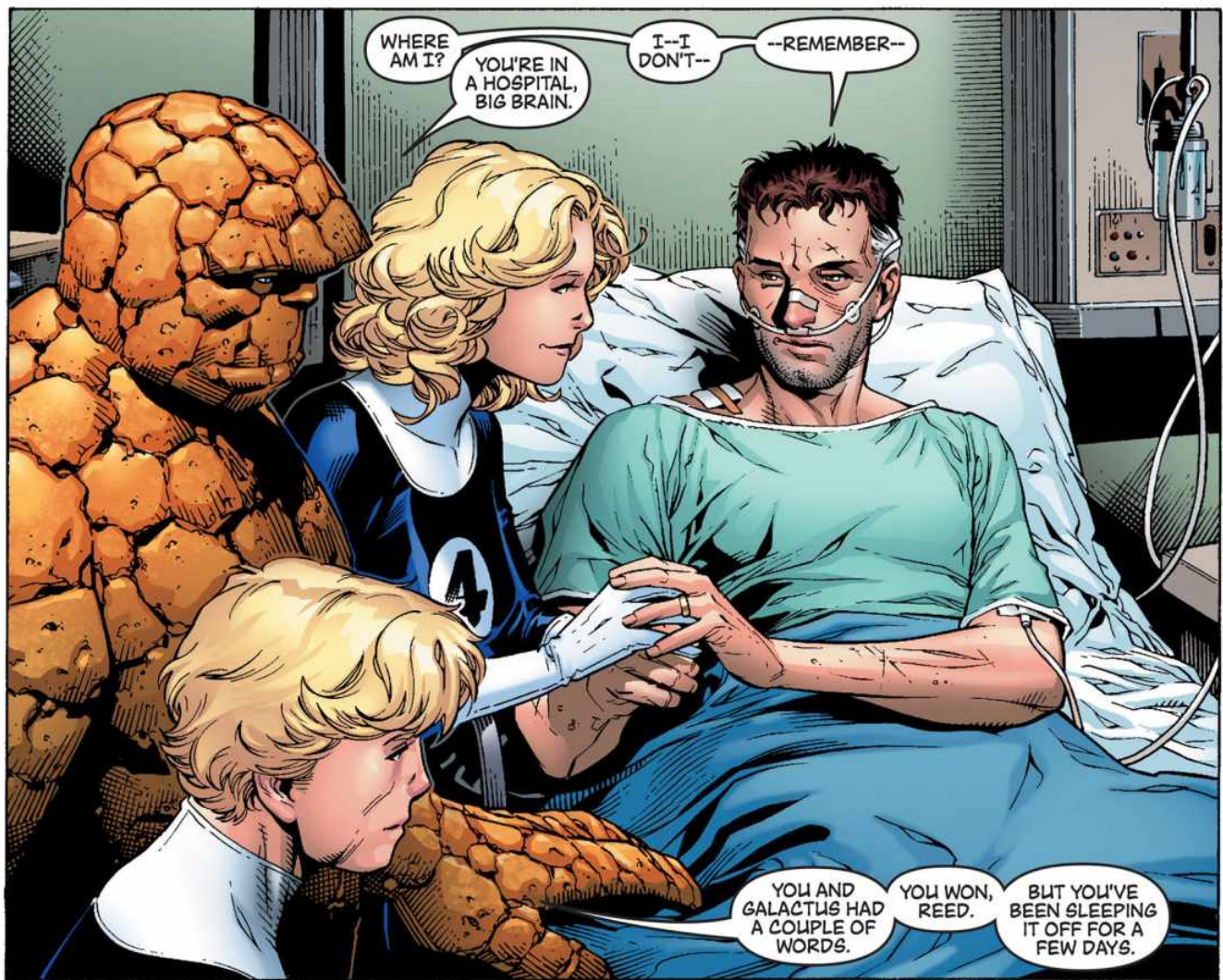
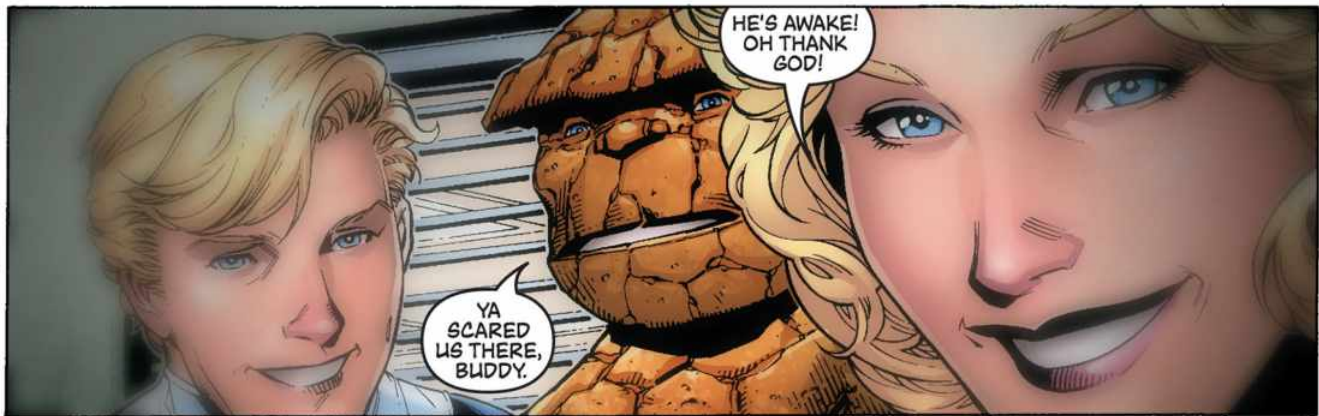
WE WILL MOVE
YOUR FACILITIES TO
ONE OF THE OTHER
SKRULL WORLDS.

YOU
WILL REPORT
ONLY TO ME.

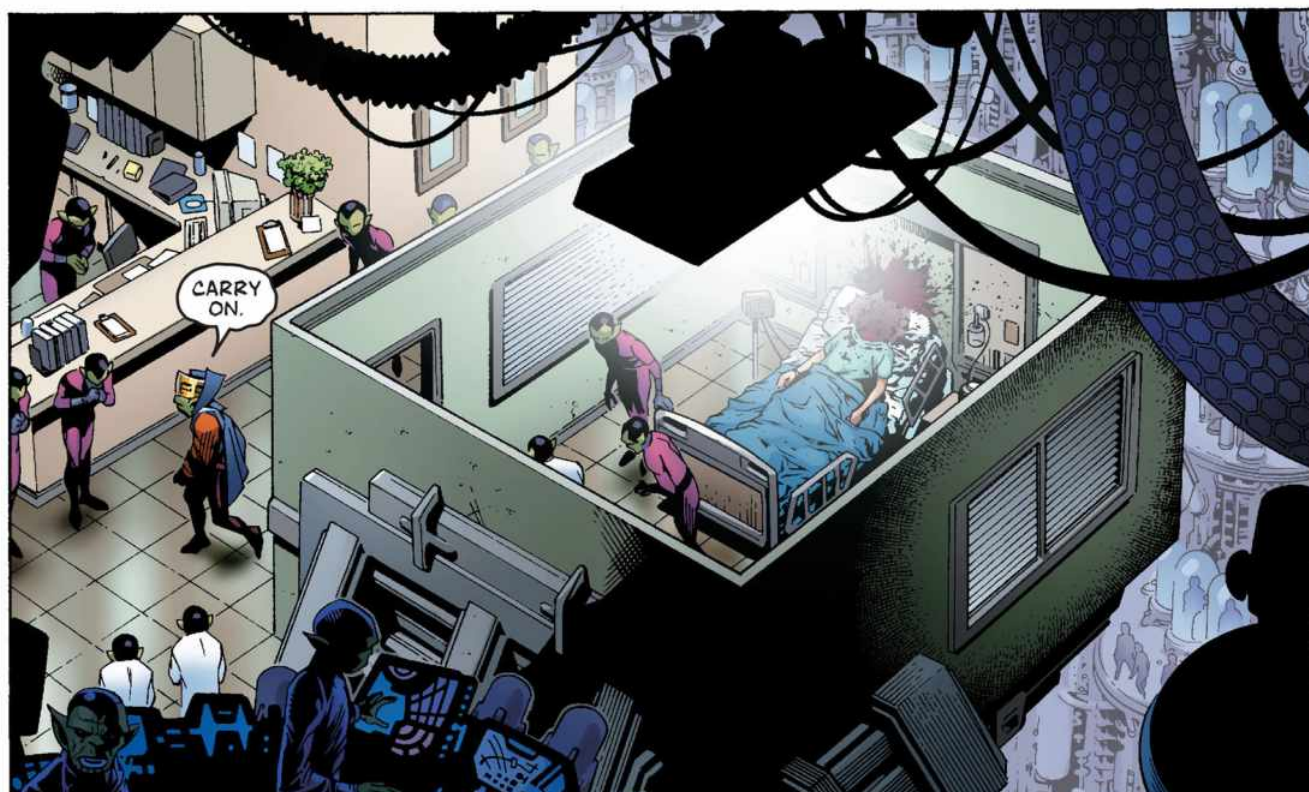
YES
SIR.















SKRULL WORLD
SATRIANI

I STAND
BEFORE YOU
TODAY SO
HUMBLED!

I AM HUMBLER
BECAUSE WHAT I KNEW
BEFORE I WAS CAST
AWAY FROM YOU
WAS TRUE!
THAT WE
ARE GOOD
AND WE ARE
RIGHT!



MILLIONS OF
OUR BROTHERS DIED SO
THAT THE MOST SKEPTICAL
AMONG YOU COULD NOW
KNOW WHAT WE HAVE
ALWAYS KNOWN!

AS THE
PROPHETS WROTE
DOWN TO OUR
ANCESTORS!

WE NOW
KNOW THE WORDS
AS WRITTEN
ARE TRUTH!

THAT OUR
PEOPLE WILL
SURVIVE!

THAT OUR
PEOPLE WILL
HAVE A SACRED
HOME!



IT
IS CALLED
EARTH!

AND IT IS
OURS!

AS IT IS
WRITTEN!

AS IT IS
WRITTEN!



YOUR HIGHNESS...
DELEGATES...

YEARS AGO, A
CONSORTIUM OF HUMANS
INCLUDING REED RICHARDS
OF THE EARTH'S FANTASTIC
FOUR CAME TO OUR
THRONeworld WITH
A MESSAGE OF
HOSTILITY.

WHAT SOME
OF YOU MIGHT NOT
KNOW, IS THOSE SIX
INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTED
VERY SPECIFIC PARTS OF
EARTH'S SUPERHUMAN
COMMUNITY.

THEY
REPRESENTED
THE GENETIC
MUTANTS...

THE
KREE-SPAWNED
INHUMANS...

...ONE OF THE
MASTERS OF THIS
DIMENSION'S
MYSTIC ARTS.

THE EARTH'S
VERY FIRST MUTANT
AND KING OF ITS WATER
KINGDOMS.

AND THESE
TWO WHO ARE
CONSIDERED THE GREATEST
SCIENTIFIC MINDS THE
EARTH HAS RIGHT
NOW.

WE WERE
ABLE TO--AND
I'LL TRY TO
EXPLAIN THIS
AS COMMONLY
AS I CAN.

WE WERE ABLE
TO DETAIN THOSE
HUMANS FOR A BRIEF
TIME AND GATHER FROM
THEM SAMPLES OF
THEIR DNA AND
GENEALOGY.

OUR GREATEST
SCIENTISTS--OUR OWN
PRIESTS OF THE MAGICS AND
THE PHYSICS--HAVE BEEN
WORKING FOR YEARS ON
WHAT WE UNCOVERED
THAT DAY.

WHAT WE HAVE FOR
YOU NOW ARE SOME RATHER
LARGE BREAKTHROUGHS THAT
WE BELIEVE, WITH THE QUEEN'S
GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTION,
MAY CHANGE THE COURSE
OF OUR EMPIRE'S
FORTUNES.

THROUGH A SERIES OF
EXPERIMENTS WE WERE ABLE
TO STRIP OUT THE HUMANS'
NEURAL CODED BRAIN
WAVE PATTERNS.

BASICALLY DOWNLOADING
ALL THE INFORMATION THEIR
GENEALOGY AND BRAIN
PATTERNS AND DNA HAD
TO OFFER US.

WE NOW KNOW
THINGS ABOUT THEM
AS A SPECIES THAT
THEY DON'T EVEN
KNOW.

WE KNOW MORE
ABOUT HUMAN
EVOLUTION AND
FUTURE HUMAN
EVOLUTION
THAN THEY
KNOW.

WE KNOW
MORE ABOUT
THE MUTANT GENE
AND THE HISTORY
OF THEIR WORLD
THAN THEY
KNOW.

AND
FROM THERE
WE WERE ABLE TO
ACCOMPLISH THE
FOLLOWING.

WELL
DONE,
SIR.



THIS IS THE
MODEL FOR OUR
NEW SUPER-SKRULL
WARRIOR.

THOUGH HE
RESEMBLES THE
PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES OF
WARRIOR KL'RT AND HIS
FAUX FANTASTIC FOUR
POWERS--

--THAT WAS,
FOR THE MOST
PART, SCIENTIFIC
TRICKERY.

THIS IS
THE REAL
THING.

ANY HUMAN
OR MUTANT WHO
WE CAN STRIP A DNA
SAMPLE OF, WE CAN
NOW COMPLETELY
DUPLICATE THEIR
ABILITIES.

ANY MIX
OR MATCH OF
ANY KIND.

OR IF
YOU WANT JUST
A HYPER-POWERED
REED RICHARDS OR
BEN GRIMM, WE CAN
DO THAT TOO.

BUT LIKE KL'RT
DISPLAYED FOR MANY
YEARS, WE BELIEVE THAT A
WARRIOR WITH A *MIXTURE* OF
POWER ATTRIBUTES REVEALS
ITSELF TO BE A MUCH
MORE ESTABLISHED
THREAT.

THE MORE
WEAPONS
A WARRIOR
HAS...

A NEW
ARMY.

EXACTLY
MY FEELINGS
ON IT.

THAT IS
SPECTACULAR.

AND WHO IS
THIS BRAVE SOUL
WHO VOLUNTEERED
HIMSELF FOR SUCH
A PROCESS?

A HUMBLE
SERVANT TO
THE EMPIRE.

AND, MAY I ADD,
THE ONLY SURVIVOR
OF THE GALACTUS
ATTACK.

IMPRESSIVE,
YES. YES, YES!

BUT IT'S JUST
ANOTHER IDEA FOR
ANOTHER PHYSICAL
ATTACK.

THIS IS WHERE
WE ALWAYS FAIL
AGAINST THE
POWERED MUTANTS
AND HEROES
TIME AND TIME
AGAIN.

DELEGATE
CH-GRAB



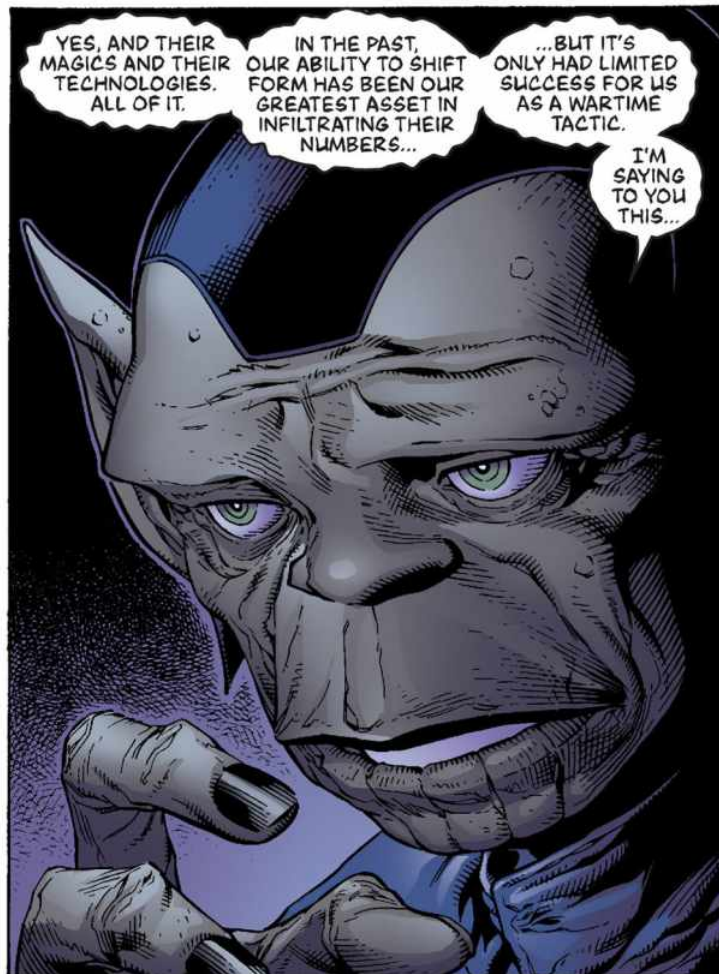
IF I MAY,
YOUR HIGHNESS,
THAT'S NOT
ALL...



THERE IS ANOTHER REASON WE HAVE CALLED THE COUNCIL TOGETHER... WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE TO YOU THAT WE HAVE *FINALLY* FOUND A WAY FOR SKRULLS TO WALK AMONG HUMANS COMPLETELY UNDETECTED.



BUT MUTANTS...



YES, AND THEIR MAGICS AND THEIR TECHNOLOGIES. ALL OF IT.

IN THE PAST, OUR ABILITY TO SHIFT FORM HAS BEEN OUR GREATEST ASSET IN INFILTRATING THEIR NUMBERS...

...BUT IT'S ONLY HAD LIMITED SUCCESS FOR US AS A WARTIME TACTIC.

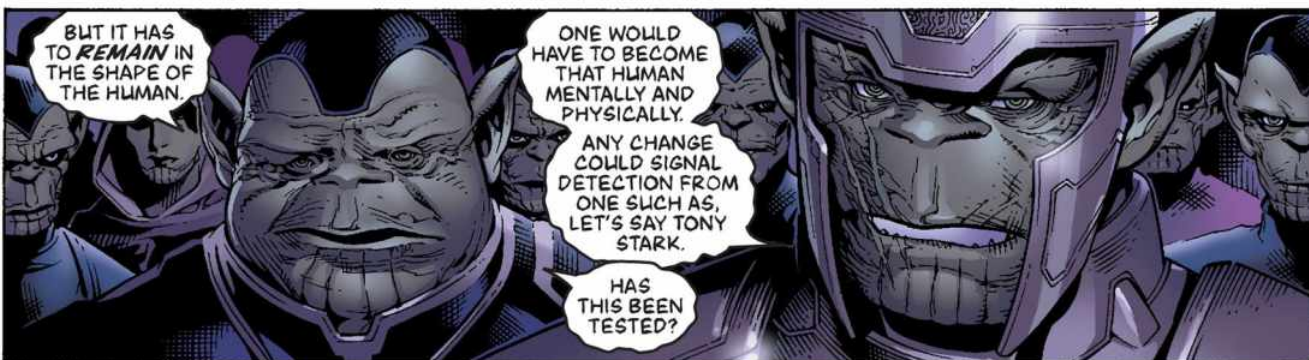
I'M SAYING TO YOU THIS...



WITH OUR NEW GENETIC ENHANCEMENTS, ONCE A SKRULL SPY HAS INFILTRATED THE HUMAN PEOPLE...

...AS LONG AS THE SHAPE THIS SKRULL HAS CHOSEN IS MAINTAINED IN ITS ENTIRETY...

...NO EXISTING POWER ON *EARTH* COULD DETECT IT.



BUT IT HAS TO *REMAIN* IN THE SHAPE OF THE HUMAN.

ONE WOULD HAVE TO BECOME THAT HUMAN MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.

ANY CHANGE COULD SIGNAL DETECTION FROM ONE SUCH AS, LET'S SAY TONY STARK.

HAS THIS BEEN TESTED?



WARRIOR SIRI. PLEASE ENTER.



MY NAME
ON EARTH IS
ELEKTRA
NATCHIOS.

I HAVE
BEEN ON EARTH
FOR THE LAST
CYCLE.

I HAVE HAD
COMMUNICATION AND
INTERACTION WITH
S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMANDER
NICK FURY, A MAN CODE-NAMED
DAREDEVIL, THE MUTANT WOLVERINE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSASSIN
CONSORTIUM KNOWN
AS THE HAND.

MY
IDENTITY
WAS NOT
DETECTED.



MY FULL
REPORT WILL BE
MADE AVAILABLE TO
YOU AT THE QUEEN'S
DISCRETION.



MY
HONOR.

MY
QUEEN.

EXPLAIN TO
THE COUNCIL HOW
THE IDENTITY OF
ELEKTRA NATCHIOS
WAS WELL-SUITED
FOR THIS
ASSIGNMENT.



HER ENTIRE PERSONA IS
WRAPPED IN MYSTERY.

SHE IS KNOWN TO THE
POWERS OF THE EARTH,
BUT NO ONE KNOWS HER
INTIMATELY.

SHE HAS
ACTUALLY EXPIRED
FROM THE MORTAL PLANE
AND BEEN BROUGHT
BACK TO LIFE.



YES. AND THERE ARE
A HANDFUL OF OTHER
HUMANS WHO FIT THIS
DESCRIPTION.

REPLACING
THEM.

TAKING THE
REAL HUMAN
AND REPLACING
THEM WITH
ONE OF
OURS HAS A
LOW RISK
AND HIGH
IMPACT.

IT IS THE
COUNCIL'S
RECOMMENDATION
THAT WE INITIATE
THIS PRE-STRIKE
STRATEGY
IMMEDIATELY.



HERE IS A LIST OF
OTHER CANDIDATES
THAT I'VE PUT
TOGETHER.

THIS IS JUST
PRELIMINARY,
THERE WILL BE
MORE.

WONDERFUL.



THE
WORD IS
GIVEN.
BUT...



I WILL BE
AMONG THOSE ON
EARTH INFILTRATION
ASSIGNMENT.

I WILL TAKE
A ROLE IN THIS
STRATEGY.



YOUR EXCELLENCE,
YOU'RE NEEDED
HERE.

I WAS BANISHED
FROM THIS EMPIRE
FOR YEARS, AND
EVERYONE HAD WHAT
THEY NEEDED TO
MOVE ALONG.

I WILL
LEAD THIS
INITIATIVE.

I WILL GO WHERE
I AM NEEDED. AND
I AM NEEDED ON EARTH
TO PREPARE US FOR THAT
WHICH IS WRITTEN.



AS YOU
WISH.



YOUR
EXCELLENCE,
DO YOU HAVE A
PREFERENCE AS
TO WHICH HUMAN
YOU'D LIKE TO
LIVE AS?

COUNSEL ...
WHICH OF
THESE DO YOU
BELIEVE IS IN A
POSITION TO DO
THE MOST...
DAMAGE?



ENHANCE
FILE DRI.



MEGAN



FM 199